

BOEM Maine Renewable Energy Task Force Teleconference

May 23, 2012

1:00 PM

Agenda

- Introductions & Opening Remarks
- Background and Status
- Request for Competitive Interest
- Task Force Member Comments
- Proposed Revisions
- Notice of Intent (NOI)
- Next Steps

Background

- On October 12, 2011 BOEM received an unsolicited request for a commercial wind lease on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) offshore Maine
 - Statoil North America (Statoil NA)
 - The proposed project “Hywind Maine” would consist of four 3 MW turbines configured for a total of 12 MW at water depths greater than 100 meters

Background (Contd.)

- BOEM conducted a qualifications review and has deemed the applicant to be legally, technically, and financially qualified
- Next step – public notice of the proposed lease area and Request for Competitive Interest (RFCI)

Key Elements of the RFCI

- Agency, Action, Summary, Dates, Submission Procedures, Contact Information
- Supplementary Information
 - Purpose of the RFCI
 - Background Information (EPA Act, EO 13547, Task Force)
 - Determination of Competitive Interest & Leasing Process
 - Description of the Proposed Lease Area
 - Required Indication of Interest Information
 - Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties
 - Protection of Privileged or Confidential Information (FOIA, NHPA)

Purpose of the RFCI

- Notice published in *Federal Register* for public comment to:
 - Describe Statoil's proposal to acquire an OCS wind lease
 - Solicit public input regarding the proposal, its potential environmental consequences and other uses within in which the proposal will be located
 - Solicit submissions of indications of competitive interest for a commercial lease for wind energy development for the area identified in the notice

Background Information

- Energy Policy Act
- BOEM Maine Renewable Energy Task Force
- Executive Order

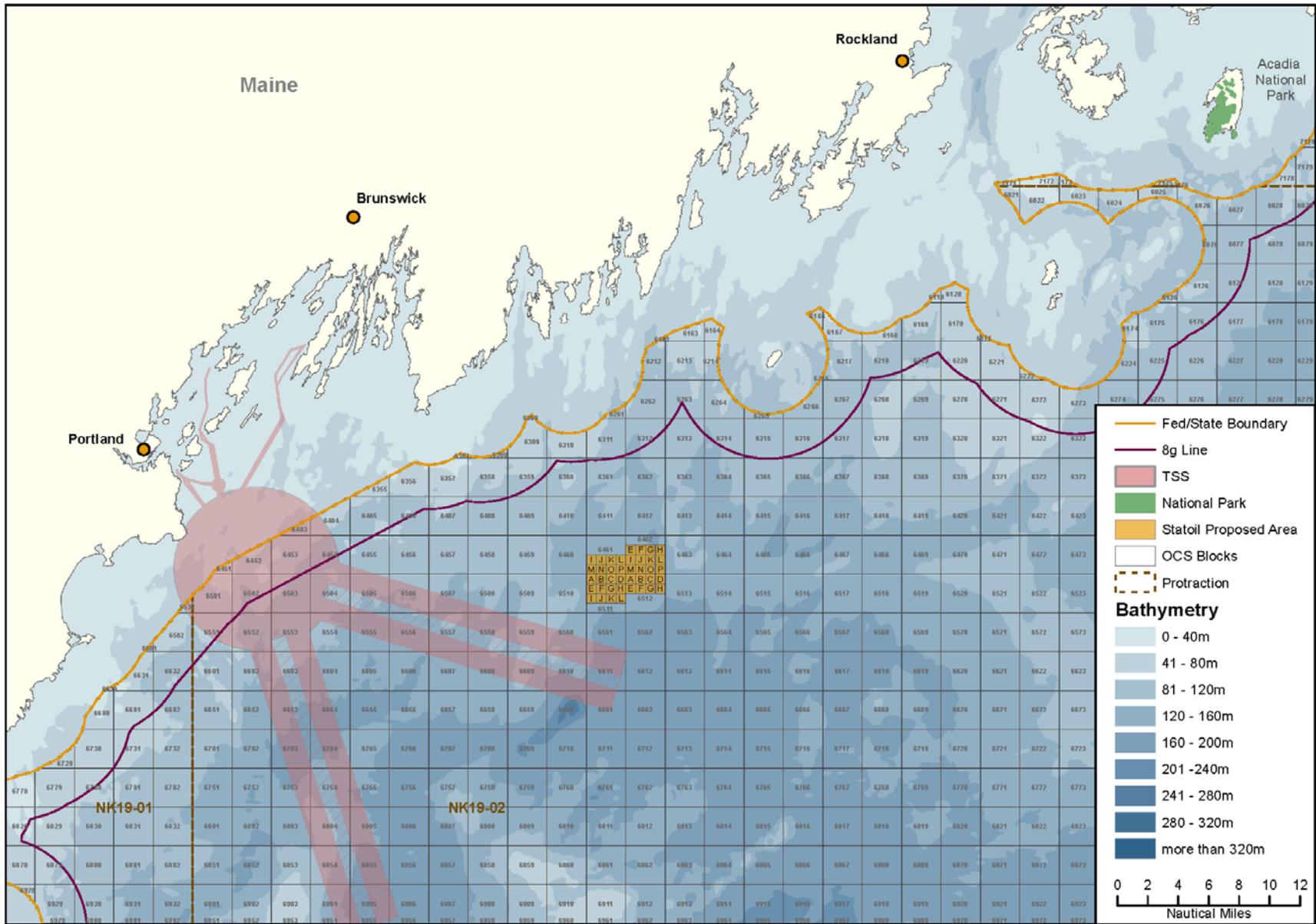
Determination of Competitive Interest and Leasing Process

- Evaluate responses received for completeness and qualifications
- Determine whether competitive interest exists
- If competitive – competitive leasing process outlined in 30 CFR 585.211
- If noncompetitive – noncompetitive leasing process outlined in 30 CFR 585.231
 - Notice of Determination of No Competitive Interest
 - Plan submittal by applicant (i.e. submittal of the COP in this case)
 - BOEM begins environmental analysis

Description of the Proposal

- The proposed lease area consists of four partial lease blocks
- Project consists of four 3 MW wind turbine generators for a total of 12 MW of nameplate capacity
- The water depth at the Hywind Maine location is greater than 100m (328 feet) and located about 12 nautical miles off the coast

Statoil Proposed Area



Required Indication of Interest Information

- Statement to acquire a commercial wind lease for the proposed lease area
- Description of objectives and facilities
- Schedule of proposed activities
- Available and pertinent data and information concerning renewable energy resources and environmental conditions in the area
- Documentation to establish legal, technical and financial qualifications

Requested Information from Interested or Affected Parties

- Geological and geophysical conditions
- Historic properties potentially affected by the construction of met towers or met buoys or commercial wind development in the area
- Multiple uses of the area such as navigation, commercial and vessel usage, especially impacts to commercial and recreational fishing
- Other relevant environmental and socioeconomic information

Task Force Member Comments

- NOAA - National Marine Fisheries Services
 - Essential Fish Habitat Consultations: Any adverse affect on the EFH for these species will require an EFH consultation with NMFS and the preparation of an EFH assessment
 - Section 7 consultations: Anticipate consultations with BOEM will be needed
 - An assessment of fishing resources and activities within the proposed lease area should be conducted
 - Habitat and Fishing Closure Areas: An assessment should be prepared evaluating any direct or indirect effects on those closed areas to habitats and fishing activities

Task Force Member Comments (Contd.)

- Maine State Planning Office Clarifications:
 - Statoil and its “long term objectives” (Pages 1-2)
 - Additional information on how BOEM will consider comments regarding environmental issues and existing uses (page 2)
 - Examples of other relevant environmental or socioeconomic information (Page 12)

Notice of Intent

- Summary
- Authority
- Purpose of the NOI
- Supplemental Information
- Cooperating Agencies
- Comments

Next Steps

- BOEM will consider all comments received from Task Force members
- BOEM internal review/approval process
- Publication in the *Federal Register* for public comment
- Next meeting to present/discuss responses: Fall 2012

Questions?

Contact Information

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